

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed the Office Action dated February 25, 2003 and the applied art. Claims 1-9 were pending in the application.

By the present Amendment, new independent claims 10 and 11 have been added, and independent claims 1 and 5-7 have been amended to place the claims in better form for examination, without narrowing the scope of claimed invention. Support for new claims 10 and 11 may be found in, for example, page 3 line 23 through page 4, line 21 of the application as filed. Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 5-7 may be found in, for example, Figs. 6 and 8. It is submitted that no new matter has been added by the present Amendment.

Accordingly, claims 1-11 are now pending and presented for examination in the application, with claims 1, 4-7, 10 and 11 being in independent form.

Claims 1, 2 and 4-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,991,290 to Malik in view of U.S. Patent 5,872,641 to Yamada. Claims 3, 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Malik in view of Yamada, and in further view of U.S. Patent 5,692,036 to Saito. Applicant has carefully considered the Examiner's comments and the cited art, and respectfully submits independent claims 1 and 4-7 are patentable over the cited art for at least the following reasons.

Independent claims 1 relates to a facsimile communication method of performing a Group 3 facsimile communications operation that uses an optional frame signal. A facsimile apparatus is provided with a memory which prestores identification information for different facsimile machines that have common specifications of optional frames. The

method comprises receiving a call from a calling facsimile machine for a facsimile communications operation using an optional frame and identification information of the calling facsimile machine, verifying the identification information of the calling facsimile machine with the identification information prestored in the memory, canceling the facsimile communications operation if the identification information of the calling facsimile machine does not correspond with the identification information prestored in the memory, and executing the facsimile communications operation if the identification information of the calling facsimile machine corresponds to the identification prestored in the memory.

Malik, as understood by Applicant, relates to a method and system for forming a digital facsimile message that includes a subaddress corresponding to a destination terminal. A destination server converts the subaddress into a network address of the destination terminal, such as an IP address, which is used to route message data. Specifically, a 4-digit subaddress is extracted from a TSI data field and compared to a set of IP addresses stored in memory, to identify a corresponding IP address that matches the four-digit address. The matching IP address is then used to create an appropriate network message header.

Although Malik teaches comparing a set of stored IP addresses to a subaddress corresponding to a destination terminal, Applicant finds no teaching or suggestion in Malik, however, of receiving a call for a facsimile communications operation using an optional frame and identification information of a calling facsimile machine from the calling facsimile machine, verifying the identification information of the calling facsimile machine with the identification information prestored in the memory, canceling the facsimile communications

operation if the identification information of the calling facsimile machine does not correspond with the identification information prestored in the memory, and executing the facsimile communications operation if the identification information of the calling facsimile machine corresponds to the identification prestored in the memory, as recited in amended claim 1.

Yamada, as understood by Applicant, relates to a communication procedure executing unit that executes a predetermined communication procedure using subaddress frames. Mail distribution destinations are specified using subaddresses associated with the destinations.

Saito, as understood by Applicant, relates to a facsimile apparatus having an auto-calling function such as one-touch dialing. The numbers of a plurality of candidate destinations (each being associated with a corresponding one-touch button) are stored in an auto-dial information table.

Although Malik, Yamada and Saito each relates to use of a subaddress corresponding to a destination, Applicant finds no teaching or suggestion in the cited art of receiving a call for a facsimile communications operation using an optional frame and identification information of a calling facsimile machine from the calling facsimile machine, verifying the identification information of the calling facsimile machine with the identification information prestored in the memory, canceling the facsimile communications operation if the identification information of the calling facsimile machine does not correspond with the identification information prestored in the memory, and executing the facsimile communications operation if the identification information of the calling facsimile machine corresponds to the identification prestored in the memory, as recited in amended

claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicant submits independent claim 1 is patentable over the cited art.

Independent claims 4-7 also are believed to be patentable for at least similar reasons.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the pending claims are patentable over the cited art.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees, including the \$168.00 fee for the two additional independent claims added hereinabove, that are required in connection with this amendment and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition, and the Commissioner is authorized to charge the requisite fees to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Entry of this Amendment and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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